

To the People who Govern Connecticut,

Taxes are too high in CT, driving tax payers and businesses out of Connecticut. I agree with Zachary Janowski's article attached and below.

Regards,

Robin Corrigan  
Wallingford, CT

## High Taxes Hurt

by [Zachary Janowski](#) | Feb 11, 2015 | [Taxes](#) |



Taxes are a fact of life. When we pay taxes, we're supporting our roads, our schools, and other important government services. However, when taxes are too high they hurt, especially those who can least afford it. Connecticut's tax system is out of balance. A better balance would reduce the cost of living, increase pay, and generate opportunities.

We are also witnessing the result of what happens when high taxes push people to move out of the state – everyone else has to pay more.

[The latest Yankee Institute policy brief](#) shows that if the top 357 taxpayers left the state, everyone else's income tax bill would need to go up 13 percent. It also shows how the state could have – by keeping one taxpayer from leaving – paid for the entire budget of the Division of Criminal Justice.

Connecticut has lost \$8.8 billion of taxable income to other states since 1993 after accounting for people moving in. That amounts to a loss of about \$400 million in revenue for the current year.

The policy study looks at the cost of high taxes and suggests how Connecticut can do better. Gov. Malloy and the General Assembly should:

- Adopt a sustainable budget under the spending cap.

- Avoid tax increases and await the Tax Review Committee's recommendation before adopting comprehensive reform.
- Use the Earned Income Tax Credit to help those most in need, paying for the increase by eliminating less effective spending.

The painful consequences of high taxes are clear in the Department of Revenue Services study on tax incidence in Connecticut. The study shows that low-income residents feel a disproportionate share of the pain caused by Connecticut's tax system. According to DRS, the losses due to taxes for half of Connecticut households equal 23 percent of income.

"It's become a cliché to complain about the high cost of living in Connecticut. Rather than complaining, let's insist that the governor and legislature cut taxes to make life in our state a little more affordable," said Carol Platt Liebau, president of the Yankee Institute. "It's time to reverse the trend of losing taxpayers who pay enough to fund an entire function of government when, instead, we should be working to attract them."

"At an absolute minimum, we must avoid further tax increases – which only make hardworking residents reach for their wallets and then head for the exits," Liebau said.

## POLL SHOWS CONNECTICUT VOTERS OPPOSE NEW TAX INCREASES

May 18, 2015 | [Taxes](#)

Sixty-three percent of Connecticut residents fear raising taxes could reduce revenue. Nearly 70 percent of Connecticut voters say they're less likely to support lawmakers who vote for tax increases this spring, according to a poll released by the Yankee Institute today. Conducted late last week, the poll shows overwhelming support for Connecticut's constitutionally enshrined spending cap and a strong opposition for new tax increases. The poll comes as lawmakers in Hartford mull over a budget package that could increase Connecticut residents' taxes by as much as \$2.4 billion. Connecticut already has among the worst tax burdens of any state in the country, according to the Tax Foundation, and lags behind a majority of states in economic recovery. "The people of Connecticut clearly understand the problems facing our state. They know Connecticut can do better," said Carol Platt Liebau, president of the Yankee Institute. "A broad majority of likely voters believes the right path forward is to stop increasing taxes and maintain the spending cap." In recent years, as ineffective tax and budget policies have become the norm in Connecticut, many fed up residents have fled the state, causing the tax burden on remaining residents to increase and leading many to fear Connecticut could become the next California. The Yankee Institute is committed to advocating for more fiscally-sound tax and budget policies in Hartford. Additional highlights from the Yankee Institute poll: The spending cap is more than twice as popular as the General Assembly.

Breaking the spending cap is even less popular than raising taxes. The spending cap continues to have broad support. More than 81 percent of Connecticut voters support...